

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMDT COGARD(FOR POLAD)

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 250112

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 26 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SUN'S SEIDEN IN SAIGON WRITES SICKENING STORY
OF PERVASIVE CORRUPTION IN SVN MILITARY WHICH VICTIMIZES
THE AVERAGE SOLDIER. DESCRIBES ONE SOLDIER WHO
HAS IN PAST FOUR YEARS PAID EQUIVALENT OF 5000 DOLS
IN BRIBES TO SUPERIORS TO AVOID COMBAT ASSIGNMENT,
BUT HAS NOW RUN OUT OF MONEY AND IS BEING REASSIGNED.
ANOTHER, WHO ENLISTED AT EARLY AGE FOR PATRIOTIC
REASONS, WAS TRANSFERRED TO COMBAT WHEN HE REFUSED
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A GENERAL'S REQUEST (WHILE WORKING AS INTERPRETER

FOR US ADVISER) TO SERVE AS GO-BETWEEN IN SMUGGLING COMMISSARY SUPPLIES. ONE-ARMED AND HALF-BLIND, HE HAD TO PAY BRIBE TO GET DISCHARGE PAPERS AND NOW MUST PAY CLERK 10 PERCENT OF HIS SMALL VET PENSION "TO FIND THE RIGHT ENVELOPE". THE RICH WHO CAN AFFORD LARGER BRIBES AVOID MILITARY SERVICE ENTIRELY, ACCORDING TO SEIDEN.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTE, IN MINOR STORIES, PASSING

OF FIRST XMAS IN 10 YEARS WITHOUT US SERVICEMEN FIGHTING; BUT REPORT CONTINUING SPORADIC CLASHES IN SVN. ARVN COMMAND ANNOUNCES 92 INCIDENTS IN 24 HOURS TO NOON DEC. 25, A SLIGHT DROP FROM RECENT DAYS BUT HIGHER THAN 65 REPORTED LAST YEAR WHEN XMAS TRUCE WAS IN EFFECT. MEANWHILE, UPI REPORTS LE MONDE QUOTED "WELL-INFORMED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES" THAT HAK AND THO WOULD MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS VN C-F. WH SPOKESMAN WARREN WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

3. PAPERS ALSO NOTE IN LOW KEY THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY OF ROCKETING OF PP FROM NEARBY MARSHES. UPI (NYT) SAYS FANK CLEARED EAST BANK OF MEKONG AND FOUND NO ENEMY, BUT ROCKETS CAME FROM SEVERAL MILES INLAND. WSJ AND SUN REPORT FANK BATTALION FLED KROCH SOEUCH BASE 11 MILES NE OF PP AFTER KR SHELLING WHICH WOUNDED COMMANDER AND KILLED HIS DEPUTY.

JAPAN

4. ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASED RESTRICTIONS AGAINST JAPAN AND MOST WE IS WIDELY BANNED. PRESS NOTE THAT GOJ IS NOW CLASSIFIED BY ARAB STATES AS "FRIENDLY". NYT CARRIES TEXT OF SHEIK YAMANI STATEMENT, AND HIS OBSERVATION THAT ARAB MINISTERS HAVE NOTED CHANGE IN JAPANESE POLICY VIS-A-VIS ARAB CAUSE.

5. GAIMUSHO, IN INFORMAL STATEMENT PENDING RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL KUWAIT REPORT, WELCOMES DECISION, SAYING UNCLASSIFIED

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ARAB LEADERS HAVE APPARENTLY RECOGNIZED GOJ'S SINCERITY IN SUPPORTING ARAB CAUSE (WP).

6. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS TOP FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE REACHED "HORRIFYING CONCLUSION" THAT OPEC DECISION TO RAISE PRICE OF CRUDE MAY MORE THAN WIPE OUT JAPAN'S FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES OF 13 BILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1974 BY REQUIRING TOKYO

TO PAY OUT APPROXIMATELY 15 BILLION JUST TO MAINTAIN
CURRENT OIL IMPORTS.

7. CULLISON SAYS 20 PERCENT CUT IN OIL AND POWER
USAGE IS EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM STATE OF EMERGENCY
DECLARED OVER HOLIDAY. ADB PRESIDENT INOUE, VISITING
TOKYO, CAUTIONS JAPAN NOT TO PANIC IN FACE OF CURRENT
OIL CRISIS; CONTENDS THAT IF GOJ DECIDED TO CUT
FOREIGN AID DRASTICALLY BECAUSE OF OIL CRISIS, DISTRUST
FOR JAPAN AMONG ASIAN COUNTRIES WOULD LIKELY GROW.
INOUE ADDS THAT BANK IS ENCOURAGED BY FACT US CONGRESS
APPROPRIATED 50 MILLION FOR ADB ASSERTING IT WOULD
INDUCE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW; SAYS THAT EXCEPT
FOR SUCH COUNTRIES AS SINGAPORE AND ROK, MOST ASIAN
NATIONS APPEAR MORE CONCERNED OVER IMPENDING ECONOMIC

SLOWDOWN IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES THAN OVER OIL SHORTAGE
(WSJ).

8. AP CITES ASAHI SURVEY SHOWING THAT 75 PERCENT OF
3,000 JAPANESE QUESTIONED REPORTED FEELING UNEASY
ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. REASONS GIVEN INCLUDED PRICE
INCREASES, SHORTAGES OF GOODS AND SOCIAL UNREST (WP).

KOREA

9. ASAHI QUOTES "HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES" IN SEOUL
AS SAYING KIM DAE JUNG WILL BE PERMITTED LEAVE SK
IN JAN. OR EARLY FEB. PAPER SAYS SK HAS TOLD JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT
KIM'S PASSPORT REQUEST (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS
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10. FROM HONG KONG, NYT'S DURDIN QUOTES NCNA THAT
2300 STUDENTS WERE GRADUATING THIS MONTH FROM PEKING
U AND WOULD BE FIRST CLASS TO FINISH NEW 3-YEAR
COURSES THERE UNDER NEW HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM
GROWING OUT OF GPCR. STUDENTS DRAWN FROM WORKERS,
PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS, AND DURING COLLEGE YEARS
ALTERNATE BETWEEN STUDY AND MANUAL LABOR. AFTER
GRADUATION, THEY WILL RETURN TO THEIR FACTORIES,
FARMS OR MILITARY UNITS TO APPLY THEIR TRAINING.
IN KEEPING WITH NEW CONCEPT, PEKING U STUDENTS HAVE
NOT HAD TO TAKE USUAL WRITTEN FINAL BUT HAVE FULFILLED
REQUIREMENTS BY LECTURING TO LABOR GROUPS OR PRODUCING
REPORTS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES DURING 3 MONTHS WORK
ON FARMS OR IN MINES, FACTORIES OR RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

NCNA CLAIMS THAT REPORTS BY STUDENTS UNDER NEW SYSTEM WERE BETTER THAN OLD-STYLE EXAM PAPERS BASED ON BOOK RESEARCH BECAUSE THEY DEALT WITH URGENT PROBLEMS AND RESEARCH DONE UNDER REAL CONDITIONS. IT ALSO REPORTS THAT PROPONENTS OF NEW APPROACH ARE IN ASCENDANCY OVER THOSE WHO OPPOSE GPCR TRENDS AND HAVE SOUGHT TO APPLY FIXED STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS DETERMINED BY STUDY AND EXAMS. HOWEVER, DURDIN NOTES THAT ADVOCATES OF TESTS STILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE; CITES KWANGTUNG REPORTS THAT STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ENTRY INTO UNIVERSITIES MAINLY ON GROUNDS OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR MUST NEVERTHELESS TAKE EXAMS THAT ARE USED FOR "REFERENCE." CITES RECENT WEN HUI PAO REPORT THAT MORE THAN 153,000 STUDENTS WERE ADMITTED INTO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES THIS YEAR, LARGEST NUMBER SINCE GPCR.

11. NYT'S CLARITY, IN LAI KHE (27 MILES N OF SAIGON), WRITES SHORT PIECE ON 38-YEAR-OLD ARVN LT. COL. VAN NGUYEN DUONG, WHO SPENT HALF HIS LIFE IN ARMY. DUONG REGARDS SELF AS POET AND IS FAVORITE OF SVN LITERARY AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES, AND SAYS HE IS WRITING HIS PERSONAL MEMOIR ON BITTER AN LOC BATTLE.

12. SUN'S ED WU IN HONG KONG NOTES THAT MAO, WHO FROM HIS EARLIEST DAYS WAS AGAINST FEUDAL TRADITIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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URNS 80 TODAY WITHOUT SIGNS THAT AGE IS ABATING HIS REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR. LATEST MANIFESTATION OF THIS LIES IN MAO'S SHUNNING PUBLIC OBSERVANCE OF HIS BIRTHDAY AND IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT CONFUCIUS. NOTES THAT FENG YU-LAN, PROMINENT PHILOSOPHER AND AUTHORITY ON CONFUCIANISM WHO JOINED THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS BANDWAGON, RECENTLY ASSERTED IN ONE OF THE UNIVERSITYS' JOURNALS THAT THE NEW REVOLUTION IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY WAS DIRECTED PERSONALLY BY MAO. WU ALLUDES TO CURRENT ISSUE OF RED FLAG, WHICH POINTS OUT THAT THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS STRUGGLE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE REVOLUTIONARY MASSES AND THE LIN PIAO CLIQUE, AND THEREFORE THE CRITICISM OF CONFUCIUS AND LIN SHOULD BE COMBINED. WU SAYS MAO HOPES TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE - TO REALIZE DREAM OF CREATING A NEW MAN FREE OF CONFUCIAN TRADITION AND THOROUGHLY CLEANSE CADRES AND PEOPLE OF "ANTI-PROLETARIAN" INFLUENCE SPREAD BY LIN.

13. IN CONTEXT OF ARAB USE OF OIL TO FORCE ISRAELI

WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS, WSJ'S LEVINE CITES
WORRIES CENTERED AMONG MIDDLE-ECHELON US BUREAUCRATS,
PRIVATE ECONOMISTS AND INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES THAT
THIRD-WORLD NATIONS MAY DECIDE TO USE THEIR MINERAL
WEALTH NOT FOR POLITICAL ENDS BUT ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE.
IN RECENT YEARS, US FOREIGN POLICY MACHINERY HAS
CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING RELATIONS AMONG THE BIG
POWERS - USSR, CHINA, JAPAN AND WE, WITH THE CONSEQUENCE
THAT DEVELOPING AREAS, WHICH HOLD RESOURCES THE
US WILL INCREASINGLY NEED, HAVE BEEN SLIGHTED.
IN VIEW OF SOME ANALYSTS, WASHINGTON WILL HAVE
TO LAVISH MORE ATTENTION AND MONEY ON LESS DEVELOPED
NATIONS. REPORTS BROOKINGS ECONOMIST C. FRED BERGSTEN,
FORMER NSC STAFFER UNDER HAK, AS SAYING: "WHEN
WE AWAKEN TO AN OIL CRISIS, WE REALIZE HOW VITAL
TO US ARE NIGERIA, INDONESIA AND ECUADOR." KISSINGER

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